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MAY 27 1969

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Statistical Reporting Service, U. S. D. A. Washington, D. C.

SS-317

April 28, 1969

U.S. Crop Summary... April 1, 1969

Winter wheat production, estimated at 1,140 million bushels, 2 percent above the December 1968 forecast, is 7 percent below a year earlier and 6 percent less than 1967.

Orange production at 181.3 million boxes, is 5 percent more than last month, 45 percent above last year, but 1 percent below the 1966-67 crop.

Grapefruit production, estimated at 58.3 million boxes, is 32 percent more than a year earlier, and 4 percent above 1966-67.

Lemon prospects are for 16.1 million boxes, 3 percent less than a year ago, and 10 percent below the 1966-67 crop.

Early spring potato crop is estimated at 5.4 million hundredweight, up 8 percent from a year earlier, and 84 percent above 1967.

Milk production in March of 10 billion pounds is 2 percent less than March 1968, and 4 percent below 1967.

Egg production at 6 billion in March, is 2 percent below both March 1968 and 1967.

General Crop Report as of April 1, 1969

Prospects for the 1969 winter wheat crop are good. And soil moisture is adequate in most major growing areas, according to the Crop

Reporting Board. Late February and March precipitation especially benefited dry areas in the Central and Southern Plains. Winter damage is light. Production of winter wheat is expected to be down 7 percent from last year. The 13-percent decline in seeded acreage more than offset prospects for higher yields per acre.

Fieldwork was behind schedule on April 1 as wet soils and cool temperatures limited operations. Activity gathered momentum the first week of April as temperatures warmed. Flooding is delaying land preparation in the Upper Midwest and a late spring is assured in the heavy snow area. Row crop planting has started in the most southern States.

Spring vegetable production for fresh market is expected to be less than last year. The early spring potato output is expected to be above 1968. Milk and egg production in March dropped 2 percent from a year earlier.

Winter Wheat Crop Down 7 Percent from 1968

Winter wheat production is now expected to be 7 percent below last year. The April 1 forecast is

Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average Prices Received by Farmers		Parity Prices
	Feb. 15, 1969	Mar. 15, 1969	Based on Data for Mar. 1969
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.)..... ct.	19.60	20.46	47.20
Wheat (bu.)..... dol.	1.28	1.28	2.72
Rice (cwt.)..... dol.	4.84	4.83	7.20
Corn (bu.)..... dol.	1.09	1.09	1.70
Peanuts (lb.) ct.	11.9	11.8	16.1
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Milkfat in cream (lb.) ct.	67.8	67.9	91.5
Milk, wholesale (cwt.)..... dol.	5.45	5.34	6.49
Wool (lb.)..... ct.	39.7	39.4	92.6
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.) dol.	.909	.898	1.40
Cottonseed (ton)..... dol.	50.20	49.90	72.70
Flaxseed (bu.)..... dol.	2.81	2.86	4.21
Hay, baled (ton)..... dol.	24.40	24.80	--
Oats (bu.) dol.	.644	.621	.926
Potatoes (cwt.)..... dol.	2.30	2.46	3.09
Rye (bu.)..... dol.	.988	.997	1.45
Sorghum, grain (cwt.)..... dol.	1.77	1.76	2.75
Soybeans (bu.)..... dol.	2.48	2.48	3.59
Sweetpotatoes (cwt.) dol.	6.60	6.89	7.42
Oranges, on tree (box) dol.	2.14	2.33	3.56
Apples, for fresh use (lb.)... ct.	8.85	9.40	8.82
Beef cattle (cwt.) dol.	24.20	25.20	30.70
Calves (cwt.) dol.	29.70	30.70	36.00
Hogs (cwt.) dol.	19.60	20.00	25.50
Lambs (cwt.)..... dol.	26.50	27.40	30.10
Chickens, all (lb.) ct.	14.3	14.7	20.9
Eggs (dozen)..... ct.	38.6	39.5	50.2

¹ Unpublished ² Preliminary ³ Does not include incentive payment

Stocks of Grain; All Positions, April 1, 1969

All wheat stored totaled 1,112 million bushels, 32 percent above a year earlier; 59 percent above 2 years ago. Off-farm stocks were 36 percent, farm holdings 28 percent above a year earlier.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions were 67.5 million bushels, 46 percent above April 1, 1968; 49 percent above 2 years ago. Farm holdings, 50 million bushels, were 52 percent and off-farm stocks, 17.6 million, were 32 percent above a year earlier.

Rye stocks in all positions totaled 19.9 million bushels, 14 percent less than a year earlier and 18 percent below April 1, 1967.

Corn stocks in all positions on April 1 totaled 3,011 million bushels--6 percent below year-earlier, but 11 percent above April 1, 1967. Off-farm stocks were up 1 percent but farm stocks were down 8 percent from year earlier.

Oat stocks in all positions on April 1 totaled 547 million bushels, almost a fourth above both one and two years earlier. Off-farm stocks were up 32 percent and farm holdings 21 percent from April 1, 1968.

Sorghum grain stocks totaled 543 million bushels on April 1--5 percent above a year earlier and 3 percent above April 1, 1967. Farm holdings stocks were down 8 percent but off-farm were up 10 percent from a year ago.

Soybean stocks in all positions were record-high, 707 million bushels, 32 percent above a year earlier. Off-farm stocks were up 148 million bushels and farm stocks 22 million bushels from a year ago.

Rough rice stocks in all positions were record high for the date at 46.2 million cwt., 72 percent above a year earlier and 51 percent above 2 years ago--previous high.

Milled rice stocks in all positions totaled 5.9 million cwt., 62 percent above a year earlier; highest for the date in a decade.

Stocks of grain on farms July 1 and October 1 (Soybeans, September 1) will be released in reports: Stocks of Grain in all Positions; July 24, September 24, and October 24 instead of 10th of month Crop Production Reports. Estimates of January 1, 1969 Grain Stocks will be in the July report: Stocks of Grain.

1,140 million bushels, 89 million less than 1968 and 67 million bushels below 1967 production. Indicated yield per seeded acre is 26.5 bushels, but was 24.9 bushels in 1968 and 22.3 bushels in 1967.

Southern States Peach Crop Prospects Good
Citrus Expected 36 Percent Above 1968

Peach trees in the Southern States came through the winter with no significant damage. Cool temperatures in the Carolinas and Georgia into March kept buds dormant until after mid-month. In most Southern areas, trees were in full bloom or past that stage by April 1. In the Mid-Atlantic States--Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware--peach buds are swelling. In the Central and Western States, trees are in good condition.

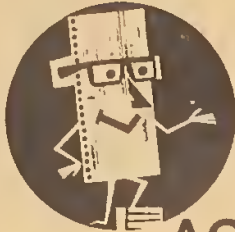
In Oregon, apricots and peaches are in full bloom--pears in pre-pink. Bloom dates for fruits are expected to be near normal. In California, warm weather stimulated rapid development of deciduous fruit and nut trees. Most trees are past

Continued on page 4

Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

Item	1968		1969		
	Mar.	Year Average	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Millions of persons					
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) ¹ ..	71.0	72.1	72.2	72.9	73.2
Farm employment.....	4.2	4.7	3.4	3.6	4.0
Family.....	3.3	3.5	2.8	2.9	3.2
Hired.....	.9	1.2	.6	.7	.8
Index number (1957-59 = 100)					
Industrial production ²	163	165	169	170	170
Total personal income payments ³	183	188	196	198	199
Weekly factory earnings ⁴	162	168	172	172	175
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker ⁴	143	146	150	148	151
All commodities.....	108	109	111	111	112
Farm commodities.....	102	102	105	105	106
Food, processed.....	113	114	116	116	116
Consumer price index ⁴	120	121	124	125	--
Food.....	118	119	122	122	--
Index numbers (1910-14 = 100)					
Prices received by farmers.....	258	260	263	267	272
Crops.....	229	228	220	225	229
Food grains.....	173	160	155	156	156
Feed grains and hay.....	165	159	162	165	164
Cotton.....	164	189	163	166	173
Tobacco.....	560	567	578	583	583
Oil bearing crops.....	271	264	258	260	259
Fruit.....	294	292	251	265	279
Commercial vegetables.....	348	315	333	339	348
Livestock and products.....	282	288	299	302	308
Meat animals.....	345	346	349	362	375
Dairy products.....	308	318	332	330	323
Poultry and eggs.....	132	141	166	156	160
Prices paid by farmers.....					
All commodities.....	308	310	315	318	321
Used in living.....	330	335	342	344	347
Used in production.....	292	292	296	299	303
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index)	350	354	363	365	369
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted.....	870	917	965	965	965
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index).....	74	74	72	73	74
Adjusted parity.....	79	79	78	79	80

¹Bureau of the Census, ²Federal Reserve Board, ³Department of Commerce, ⁴Bureau of Labor Statistics - omitted if unavailable at press time.



SAM STAT SAYS "Let's Keep Informed"

AGRIBUSINESS AND THE BUSINESS OF AGRINUMBERS

Agribusiness can't do much without "agrinumbers"--the "how many" and "how much" of inputs and production, stocks and prices. So, the Crop Reporting Board serves an important data collection function for a broad mix of patrons including, of course, the farmer himself. Hundreds of thousands of agribusiness entrepreneurs use the Board's periodic crop and livestock estimates, price reports, and a conglomerate of other reports to help plan both short-term and long-range operations.

HERE'S HOW SOME AGRIBUSINESSES USE THE NUMBERS

DISTRIBUTORS:

An apple distributor in Oregon, stacking his stocks in cold storage, takes the monthly SRS report on cold storage holdings, compares those numbers with year-earlier data and the current fruit situation report. With this wisdom of "agrinumbers" at hand, he can figure on whether to reduce his price for quick sales of his stored apples, or to hold off until later in expectation of better demand for apples.

INPUT SOURCES:

A seedman in the Great Plains takes the annual summary of crop production and notes the wheat figures. He checks these against the numbers for wheat and other foodgrains in the March report of farmers' intentions for planting acreage in the year ahead. Armed with these numbers, he reviews the wheat situation report and begins to plan his sales program. And by perusing current reports on farm grain stocks plus reports on past production of wheat, he plans his own production or purchases of seed.

MANUFACTURERS:

Long-term planning by a tractor manufacturer is more complicated. He needs some historical data on production of the crops his machinery is used for. He needs the "benchmark" guide of the Five Year Census of Agriculture. He also needs competitive information--periodic reports of types and totals of machinery used on farms. With these facts in front of him he plans his purchases of steel and other production supplies for manufacturing, and plans production of the equipment he makes and sells. For current sales and promotions planning, he uses reports on planting intentions, stocks of grains on farms, annual summary of last year's farm production, and current field crops situation reports.

Less obvious users of "agrinumbers" are firms concerned with money, trading or security. Nonetheless, these agribusinesses rely heavily on SRS reports, and on commodity situation reports issued by the Economic Research Service. The situation reports are largely based on data collected by SRS.

BANKERS:

A mid-California banker, for example, approached for short-term loans for various inputs by fruit and vegetable growers in his area, must know what their prospects are for the season and how their crops went last year. He gets this from intentions reports, the last year's annual crop summary, and monthly reports of crop estimates. He also checks out current and historical weather reports (the Agricultural Weather Service always has an SRS statistician on its staff). Thus he has at hand month to month changes in both production and weather forecasts to check details pertinent to the crops for which he'll lend the cash.

TRADERS:

Traders in farm commodities also have special problems that need the help of "agrinumbers". A broker at the Corn Exchange, for instance, must know as accurately as possible the latest corn for grain estimates before he can supply proper information to a trader who wants to buy or sell corn "futures". So, he determinedly waits for the special release of the monthly crop report issued by SRS from security "lock-up". These reports on highly speculative commodities for trading, are closely guarded by the Crop Reporting Board. Thus the reports are impartially issued simultaneously across the Nation for all interested traders and growers.

INSURERS:

Much of the insurance issued in the agricultural industry is for guarding against crop failures or farm fires. A seasonal insurer always checks reports issued on annual crop production and weather in addition to current reports on crop estimates and yields. He must also have at hand reports on long-range projections of production and the Census of Agriculture reports, before he can assess tables of rates for his clients.

SOME 750 REPORTS A YEAR

USDA issues more than 750 reports every year on the numbers of agriculture--which serve almost every business along the complex highway from farmer to ultimate consumer. "Agrinumbers" are thus both kit and catalyst to the smooth-flowing production and distribution of U.S. food and fiber.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Farm-Retail Spread and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-Food Products

Year and Month	Retail Cost ¹	Farm Value ²	Farm-Retail Spread	Farmer's Share
Average 1968.....	1,118	434	684	39%
1969 January.....	1,138	446	692	39
1969 February.....	1,136	452	684	40
1969 March.....	1,148	459	689	40

¹Retail costs of average quantities per family and per single person bought (1960-61) by wage and clerical workers, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics figures. ²Farmers' receipts. ³Preliminary.

Cash Receipts¹ from Farm Marketings, by States, January-June

State	Livestock and products		Crops ²		Total ²	
	Millions of dollars					
	1968	1969	1968	1969	1968	1969
NORTH ATLANTIC						
Maine.....	21.6	24.2	11.5	15.4	33.1	39.5
New Hampshire.....	7.3	8.2	1.9	1.7	9.2	9.9
Vermont.....	21.2	21.4	2.0	1.8	23.2	23.3
Massachusetts.....	14.5	16.3	7.3	7.5	21.8	23.3
Rhode Island.....	1.7	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.7	3.0
Connecticut.....	15.0	17.6	8.4	9.3	23.4	26.9
New York.....	114.0	132.3	42.1	40.9	156.0	173.3
New Jersey.....	19.6	19.9	8.3	7.8	27.9	27.7
Pennsylvania.....	108.4	120.0	32.4	33.0	140.8	153.0
NORTH CENTRAL						
Ohio.....	117.4	126.4	87.0	75.4	204.4	201.8
Indiana.....	130.3	137.0	111.0	99.0	241.3	236.0
Illinois.....	225.5	239.5	280.5	207.8	506.0	447.3
Michigan.....	77.4	81.7	48.0	42.6	125.4	124.4
Wisconsin.....	211.3	225.9	26.2	25.9	237.5	251.8
Minnesota.....	212.7	226.8	84.4	93.0	297.0	319.9
Iowa.....	420.7	446.0	187.9	173.3	608.6	619.3
Missouri.....	135.8	145.8	54.7	62.8	190.5	208.6
North Dakota.....	41.1	42.4	60.5	64.8	101.6	107.1
South Dakota.....	126.5	133.5	30.1	29.1	156.7	162.6
Nebraska.....	212.3	216.8	100.9	95.8	313.2	312.6
Kansas.....	176.8	186.4	82.4	74.4	259.2	260.8
SOUTHERN						
Delaware.....	13.3	17.0	3.1	2.2	16.4	19.1
Maryland.....	36.4	42.5	7.0	6.7	43.4	49.2
Virginia.....	36.9	39.3	19.2	18.5	56.1	57.8
West Virginia.....	9.5	10.1	4.1	4.2	13.6	14.3
North Carolina.....	75.1	82.4	23.9	18.2	99.1	100.6
South Carolina.....	22.5	24.2	16.5	10.0	38.9	34.3
Georgia.....	96.3	107.1	27.9	22.0	124.2	129.1
Florida.....	55.8	56.9	223.6	258.7	279.5	315.5
Kentucky.....	44.8	46.9	79.8	91.5	124.6	138.4
Tennessee.....	53.1	55.7	22.4	25.8	75.5	81.6
Alabama.....	66.4	71.7	13.0	11.9	79.3	83.6
Mississippi.....	63.3	66.6	50.5	56.2	113.8	122.8
Arkansas.....	60.0	67.3	21.9	30.8	81.9	98.1
Louisiana.....	35.3	36.9	41.8	45.5	77.1	82.5
Oklahoma.....	85.3	90.7	34.1	31.0	119.5	121.7
Texas.....	223.1	242.3	185.8	172.4	408.9	414.7
WESTERN						
Montana.....	25.5	27.0	32.4	32.2	57.9	59.2
Idaho.....	36.3	38.0	39.6	48.9	75.9	87.0
Wyoming.....	12.5	13.4	3.6	3.8	16.1	17.2
Colorado.....	111.0	118.0	33.3	29.2	144.4	147.2
New Mexico.....	18.5	19.8	9.8	8.8	28.3	28.7
Arizona.....	37.2	37.5	37.0	29.9	74.2	67.4
Utah.....	25.8	27.9	6.7	4.2	32.6	32.1
Nevada.....	8.7	9.1	2.2	1.9	10.9	10.9
Washington.....	45.8	47.2	61.3	67.4	107.1	114.5
Oregon.....	33.3	34.9	27.6	26.2	60.9	61.1
California.....	242.5	252.0	234.3	222.6	476.8	474.5
Alaska.....	0.4	0.4	---	---	0.4	0.4
Hawaii.....	5.9	5.8	26.9	26.9	32.8	32.7
UNITED STATES	3,991.7	4,258.7	2,557.7	2,470.0	6,549.4	6,728.7

¹Estimates as of the first of current month. Latest revised data by months appear in the Farm Income Situation issued two times a year. Revised year-earlier data are released in the Statistical Summary, July. ²Sales of farm products include receipts from loans reported minus value of redemptions during the period. Rounded data may not add.



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Cash Receipts From Farming and Index of Volume of Farm Marketings, United States¹

Item	January - February		March	
	1968	1969	1968	1969
CASH RECEIPTS				
Total marketings and CCC loans ²	Millions of dollars			
Livestock and products.....	6,549	6,729	2,870	3,300
Meat animals.....	3,992	4,259	2,016	2,300
Dairy products.....	2,426	2,527		
Poultry and eggs.....	946	1,008		
Other.....	539	642		
	81	81		
Crops.....	2,557	2,470	854	1,000
Food grains.....	290	263		
Feed crops.....	845	694		
Cotton (lint and seed).....	177	156		
Tobacco.....	107	124		
Oil-bearing crops.....	347	396		
Vegetables.....	311	315		
Fruits and tree nuts.....	251	295		
Other.....	230	227		
Government payments.....	242	186		
Grand total.....	6,791	6,915		
VOLUME OF FARM MARKETINGS:				
	(1957-59 = 100)			
All commodities.....	114	113	94	102
Livestock and products.....	118	117	118	122
Crops.....	110	107	62	77

¹Estimates as of the first of current month. Latest revised data by months appear in the Farm Income Situation issued two times a year. Revised year-earlier data are released in the Statistical Summary, July. ²Sales of farm products include receipts from loans reported minus value of redemptions during the period. Rounded data may not add.

PEACH CROP--Continued from page 2.

full bloom and are leafing out. Cherries and apples are approaching full bloom.

All citrus production is expected to be 36 percent above last year, up about 3 percent from a month ago. Conditions in Florida and California favoring citrus pushed expected orange production to 181.3 million boxes, 45 percent above last season.

Less Early Spring Vegetables-- More Potatoes Expected

Expected production of early spring vegetables is 3 percent below 1968 and 6 percent below 1967. Larger crops than last year are expected for cabbage, sweet corn, onions, tomatoes, and cucumbers. Decreases are expected in lettuce, snap beans, broccoli, cauliflower and green peas.

Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	Jan.-Feb. 1968	Jan.-Feb. 1969
Dairy Production		Millions	
Milk	pounds	¹ 28,922	¹ 28,185
Evaporated whole milk	"	171.8	193.0
Dry Nonfat milk solids (for human food)	"	256.8	235.7
Butter, creamery	"	208.5	201.9
Cheese, American	"	189.1	179.6
Ice Cream	gallons	112.3	111.1
Poultry Production			
Eggs	--	¹ 17,765	¹ 16,988
Federally inspected slaughter ²			
Chickens.....	pounds	999.0	1,066.2
Turkeys.....	"	77.0	63.9
Poultry used for further processing	"	197.8	193.4
Liquid egg	"	103.1	73.4
Dried egg (egg solids).....	"	8.6	4.5
Frozen egg	"	55.3	42.7
Meat Production (dressed weight) ³			
Beef	"	3,429	3,488
Veal	"	117	112
Pork	"	2,136	2,221
Lamb and mutton	"	107	97
Total red meat	"	5,789	5,918

¹January-Mar. ²Ready-to-cook. ³Commercial excludes farm slaughter. ⁴Accumulated totals based on unrounded data.

Early spring potato production is forecast at 8 percent above 1968 and nearly double the small 1967 crop. Estimated late spring potato acreage is 10 percent above last year, but 11 percent below the 1967 acreage.

Pasture Prospects Good

Pasture condition for the 30 States surveyed on April 1 was 76 percent. Year-earlier condition was 80 percent, and was 74 percent in 1967. Cold temperatures during March limited growth of early season grasses. Monthly temperatures averaged 2° to 10° below normal across most of the Nation. Cool days and freezing nights prevailed east of the Rocky Mountains until the end of March. A warming trend and showers the first week of April greened grass and will hasten new growth. Soil moisture is generally adequate as much of the country had above normal precipitation from October 1968 through March 1969.

William T. Schanger, Editor